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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/S STEVE HILL AND EAP/ANP DAN RICCI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PHUM NZ
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE FOR SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN ZIMBABWE

REF: SECSTATE 34009

¶1. (U) On March 19, Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Charles Kingston; Senior Policy Officer; United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Kingston reiterated that New Zealand strongly condemns Zimbabwe's human rights abuses. Most recently, PM Clark told the local media that the arrest of opposition leader Morgan Tsvangerai was "disgraceful," and "confirms everything we know about Zimbabwe. It is, in effect, a dictatorship." Also on March 12, FM Peters called for the immediate release of Tsvangerai, describing the situation in Zimbabwe a "appalling." Peters further condemned the Mugabe regime, saying that it response "to legitimate and understandable political protest continues to be violent repression."

¶2. (SBU) In March 2002, GNZ instituted strong sanctions against the Mugabe regime, including a travel ban on 20 key members of the Government of Zimbabwe. The list was expanded to 249 people in Februar 2006 to include spouses of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), senior officials of the Electoral Commission officials involved in Operation Murambatsvina (Clear out Rubbish), and business people who have profited from the Mugabe regime. In July 2005 New Zealand instituted a ban on all sporting teams representing Zimbabw from entering New Zealand, except where New Zealand sport teams were impaired by contractual obligations.
Keegan